

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing distributed notification, the method comprising:
receiving a location signal from a remote device associated with a subscriber,
the location signal containing data relating to a location of the device;
storing a contact profile that includes respective contact data associated with
each of a plurality of contacts associated with the remote device; and
providing to each of the plurality of contacts a respective notification message
that contains location data corresponding to the location of the remote device and
identification data corresponding to an identity of the subscriber.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
providing to an emergency service, a notification message that includes the
location of the device and the identify of the subscriber associated with the device.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the location signal from the remote
device comprises receiving a location signal that contains global positioning data relating to
the location of the device.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
determining from the location signal the location of the remote device.

5. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
determining from the location signal a longitude and a latitude relating to the
location of the remote device .

6. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the location signal from the remote
device comprises receiving a location signal that contains a longitude and a latitude relating
to the location of the remote device.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein providing the notification message comprises
providing a text notification message to at least one of the contacts.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein providing the text notification message comprises providing a text notification message based on a text notification template.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
storing the text notification template; and
modifying the text notification template with event-specific data to form the text notification message.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein providing the notification message comprises providing a voice notification message to at least one of the contacts.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein providing the voice notification message comprises providing a voice notification message based on a voice notification template.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
storing the voice notification template; and
modifying the voice notification template with event-specific data to form the voice notification message.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining the identity of the subscriber associated with the remote device.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein determining the identity of the subscriber comprises retrieving the identity of the subscriber from the contact profile.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
recognizing the occurrence of a triggering event; and
providing the respective notification messages to each of the plurality of contacts based on the recognition of the occurrence of the triggering event.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the triggering event is the pushing of an activation button.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the triggering event is the detection of an automobile collision.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein providing the notification message comprises
5 providing a notification message that contains a status of the event.

19. A system for providing emergency notification, the system comprising:
a GPS signal receiver for receiving respective GPS signals from each of a
plurality of GPS satellites;
10 a signal transmitter for transmitting location signals that are based on the GPS
signals and represent a current location of the GPS receiver; and
a notification triggering means coupled to the GPS receiver and to the signal
transmitter for detecting a triggering event, and for causing the signal transmitter to transmit
the location signals based on a detection of the triggering event.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the notification triggering means comprises
an activation button.

21. The system of claim 19, wherein the notification triggering means comprises
20 an automobile collision sensor.

22. A system for providing emergency notification, the system comprising:
a signal receiver for receiving location signals that represent a current location
of a GPS receiver;

25 a contact profile data store that contains a contact profile that is associated
with a remote device identifier and includes respective data relating to each of a plurality of
contacts; and

a signal transmitter that provides to each of the plurality of contacts a
respective notification message that contains location data corresponding to the location of a
30 remote device associated with the remote device identifier.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the contact profile data store further contains a subscriber identifier associated with the remote device identifier.

24. The system of claim 22, wherein the contact profile data store further contains
5 a respective contact address and contact type associated with each of the plurality of contacts.

25. The system of claim 22, wherein the transmitter provides at least one notification message to a contact via a telephone connection.

10 26. The system of claim 22, wherein the transmitter provides at least one notification message to a contact via an Internet connection.